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RUGELEY
Urban District Council



YEAR 1946

Medical Officer's
Report

To The

RUGELEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1946.

The health of the District has been satisfactory.

At the end of the year the housing situation remained acute. There are good hopes of a considerable improvement during 1947.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. SMITH, M.C., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council, and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. CRADDOCK, C.S.I.B., C.F.I.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	...	...	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,055
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£33,656
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£130
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,224

VITAL STATISTICS

						Total	M.	F.
Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	154	80	74
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	145	76	69
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	5
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...							19.1	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales ...							19.1	

						Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population ...							.74	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population, England & Wales							.53	

						Total	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	83	42	41
Death rate per 1,000 population ...							10.3	
Death Rate per 1,000 population, England & Wales							11.5	
Deaths from Cancer ...							16	
Deaths from Measles ...							Nil	
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...							Nil	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)							Nil	
Deaths from Puerperal Cases ...							1	

INFANTILE MORTALITY

(under one year of age).

						Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality Rate ...						26		
England and Wales ...						43		

Maternal Mortality

One death from Maternal Causes was registered.

This gives a maternal mortality rate of ... 6.2

For England and Wales ... 1.43

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever

40 cases were notified during the year and were mostly of a mild type. There was one death.

Diphtheria

Only four cases of Diphtheria occurred. Three of these had not been immunised.

Immunisation has been carried out as in previous years at Infant Welfare Centre in Schools and by private practitioners. At December 31st 1946 it was estimated that 69% of children under 5 years of age were immunised, 92% of children of school age were immunised.

140 children were given a reinforcing injection on entering school.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1946

Disease						Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet	Fever	...	...	...	...	40	31	1 female age 5 yrs.
Whooping	Cough	...	...	...	...	23	0	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	Nil
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	Nil

Analysis of Infectious Diseases classified according to age

		Under													
Age Groups	...	1	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-35	36-45	over		
Scarlet Fever	...		2	2	7	4	4	11	4	2	3	1			
Diphtheria	...				1		1		1	1					
Measles	...			1											
Whooping Cough		3	3	3	2	3	2	7							
Pneumonia	...							1					1		
Erysipelas	...										2		1		

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1946 there were 56 cases on register. (A decrease of 7 cases).

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
23	12	13	8

New Cases and Mortality, 1946

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
16-25	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-45	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
46-55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
56-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	6	2	—	1	1	1	1	—

Health Education

During the year "The Central Council for Health Education" arranged a course of lectures on "Sex and Personality" for adolescents. The lectures were well attended.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number of			
	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	5	9	1	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ...	0	—	—	—
(b) Others	33	53	3	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	—	—	—
TOTAL	38	62	4	0

2.—Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	0	2	0

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES N. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH					Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	43	40
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...				—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...		—	—
3 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...		—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...				1	1
7 Other forms of tuberculosis diseases	...				1	—
8 Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
10 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Acute Polio-Wyelitis	...	...	...		—	—
12 Acute Inf-Encephalitis	...	...	...		—	—
13 Cancer of Bucca Cavity M. Heart F.	...				—	1
14 Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach	...				2	4
15 Cancer of Breast	...	...	...		—	—
16 Cancer of other sites	...	...	...		4	5
17 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	1
18 Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions	...				1	1
19 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	14	12
20 Other diseases of circulatory system	...				1	—
21 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	2
22 Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1
23 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...		2	—
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...				—	1
25 Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years)	...				—	—
26 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...		1	1
28 Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	1
29 Peurperal and post abortive sepsis	...				—	—
30 Other maternal causes	...	...	...		—	1
31 Premature birth	...	...	...		—	1
32 Congenital mal. birth injuries	...				2	—
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
34 Road traffic accidents	...	...	...		—	1
35 Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	3	—
36 All other causes	...	...	...	...	7	5
Special causes (included in No. 35 above)—						
Smallpox	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...
Deaths of	(Total	...	...	...	3	1
Infants	—(Legitimate	...	...	...	3	1
under 1 year	(Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—
Live Births	(Total	...	...	...	80	74
	—(Legitimate	...	...	...	76	69
	(Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	5
Stillbirths	(Total	...	...	...	2	4
	—(Legitimate	...	...	...	2	4
	(Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1
Population	...	...	...	...	8,055	

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Sixteenth Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1946.

Closet Accommodation

The Town area is mostly sewered, and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewerage of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 pails and privies, and 131 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have water-closets to cesspools.

Public Cleansing

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special trailer sludge tank. 60 Cesspools were emptied by the Council's workmen during the year.

Ambulance Service

The Council have an Austin Ambulance. During the year the ambulance was used on 637 occasions, covering 11,793 miles, which is an average of 226 miles per week. The total driving time was 1,104 hours, which is an average of 21 hours per week.

Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Shop Acts

The Shops' Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc.

Sanitary Inspection of District

Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey ...	2275
Number of Final Notices issued ...	82
Number of Final Notices complied with ...	82
Number of Informal Notices issued ...	200
Number of Informal Notices complied with ...	142

Sanitary Improvements effected

Dwelling Houses made fit or repaired	24
Obstructed drains cleansed	27
Drains amended in construction	3
Watercloset basins renewed	10
Watercloset cisterns repaired or renewed	23
Closet structures repaired	8
Closet structures rebuilt	4
Water supply and flushing apparatus provided to waterclosets without flush	15
Additional waterclosets provided	2
Dwelling Houses overcrowded	1
Animals improperly kept	13
Scavenging	40
Dustbins provided	60
Cesspools emptied or repaired	15
Burst water piping	15
New water service	3
Offensive accumulations	23
Verminous premises	1
Dirty houses	4

Food and Drugs Act 1938

Walls of premises made washable	8
Premises redecorated	10
Additional lighting provided	1
Additional ventilation provided	2
Provision of receptacles for refuse	5
Sanitary Conveniences provided	1
Washing facilities provided	1

COURT PROCEEDINGS

Application was made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order under the Public Health Act 1936 to abate a nuisance arising from the keeping of cats. An order was made for the abatement of the nuisance within three weeks.

Infectious Diseases

Number of Rooms disinfected	50
Number of Schools disinfected	0
Number of Beds disinfected	5

Smoke Abatement

No action taken or found necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by By-Laws or Regulations

The Council have By-Laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in this District. There is a Tannery in the district. There are no underground sleeping places in the district. There are no By-Laws for:—Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop-pickers.

Schools

In Rugeley Town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available and the schools have pail closets and privies which are emptied each week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Housing Act 1936

During the year:—

Demolition orders were made in respect of the following 7 dwelling houses:—

75a Queen Street
52, 54, and 56 Sheep Fair
7 and 9 Brookside
Cherry Tree Cottage, Red Brook Lane

Closing Orders were made in respect of part of the following 3 dwelling houses:—

3 Brook Square
1 Brook Square
8a Upper Brook Street

The owners of the following 8 houses gave undertakings not to re-let the houses when vacated by the present tenants until they were made fit to your satisfaction:—

3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 Sandy Lane
29 and 29a Horse Fair

HOUSING ACT 1936 and PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses

Inspection—(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	... ..	175
	Number of inspections made for that purpose		425
(2)	Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..		41
	Number of inspections made for that purpose		123
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	19
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	... ..	22

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

(a)	Proceeding under Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 and 10.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served and requiring repairs		0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—		
	(a) By owners	... ..	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	0

(b) Proceeding under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Formal Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:	
(a)	By owners	22
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c)	Proceeding under Sections 11 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	7
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the owners not to let them for human habitation	8
(4)	Number of dwelling houses demolished. They were houses in respect of which owners had given undertakings not to re-let ...	0
(5)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made in respect of part of the premises	3

3. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding

(a)—(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1936	58
(ii)	Number of families living therein	58
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	370½
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)—(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	17

Inspection and Supervision of Food

- (a) **Milk Supply.** 55 visits have been paid to farms and dairies, and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. One Statutory and two informal notices were complied with. In the district we have registered twenty-one cowkeepers. Eleven of these cowkeepers are also retail purveyors. Also in the district we have registered two retail purveyors who are not cowkeepers. We have three other retail purveyors whose dairies are situated outside our district. The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli.
- (b) **Ice Cream.** In the district we have four premises registered for the sale of ice cream and eight premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. All the premises comply with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(c) **Preserved and etc., Food premises.** In the district we have nine of these premises registered. There are two other premises in respect of which on representation by you licences have been obtained to rebuild the premises.

(d) **Meat and other Foods.**

Number of visits to Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, Grocery and Vegetable Shops, Fish Shops, Stalls, etc.	2102
Number of Informal Notices complied with	27

The following was found to be unfit for human consumption:—

72 lb. of sausage, one carcase and 142 lb. of beef, 13 lb. of Brawn, 24 lb. of dates, 76 tins of fish, 51 tins of vegetables, 117 tins of milk, 28 tins of meat and 13 eggs.

All cases of slaughtering of animals for human consumption except in emergency is now carried out at Stafford.

(e) **Adulteration, etc.** This is not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(f) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.** The Staffordshire County Council has provided laboratories and carry out such work.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919

In addition to the routine visits to premises which were infested in the past the Rodent operative has made the following visits to other premises:—

Number of visits	66
Number of premises found not to be infested	10
Number of infestations treated	8
Number of infestations cleared	8

Water Supply

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Company. The quantity is satisfactory. The quality is also satisfactory. Samples are submitted twice a year to the County Bacteriologist and the County Analyst, and all samples so far have been reported satisfactory. There is a constant supply and it does not have a plumbosolvent action. It is estimated that 2,216 dwelling-houses occupied by 8,025 persons are supplied from the public water mains. Of these, 2,185 dwelling-houses occupied by 7915 persons have the supply directly over the sinks in the houses. The remaining 31 dwelling-houses occupied by 110 persons obtain the public supply from standpipes. The tenants of seven of these dwelling-houses have to carry their water for a distance varying from 70 to 320 yards. In my opinion the water should be provided over the sinks in these houses. The other 24 houses have a standpipe in the yard, and they are houses which will be represented for demolition when the re-housing situation is improved.

Three houses at Brereton have a piped supply from a spring which is satisfactory in quality and quantity. Three houses at Brereton Fields, occupied by Messrs. Coughlan, Owens and Madden have a piped supply from Brereton Colliery Ltd. which is unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity. You have Demolition Orders on these houses. Two houses at the Levels and Wynes Farm have had the Public Supply provided over their sinks during the year.

The following are reports on samples of the Council's Public Water Supply.

ANALYST'S REPORT

	Parts per 100,000
Total solid matter dried at 212 F.	28.50
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.60
Chlorine	2.6
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 F. ...	0.010
Appearance	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None
pH value	7.2
Hardness before boiling	13.28
Hardness after boiling	5.70
Temporary hardness	7.58

Remarks.—This water is chemically of satisfactory quality and, if passed bacteriologically, may be considered suitable for drinking.

BACTERIOLOGIST'S REPORT

Count—On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37 C.—

10 colonies per ml.

On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20-22 C.—

15 colonies per ml.

Coli Aerogenies Content (presumptive coli) Nil per 100 ml. after 48 hours incubation at 37 C.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. G. CRADDOCK.

